Damage due to cyclone and floods in Pondicherry and Karaikal region

1494. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent cyclone and floods have caused extensive damage to the crops and huts in Pondicherry and Karaikal region; and

(b) whether Government have received a memorandum from the Government of Pondicherry for Central assistance to the flood affected people there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Union Territory of Pondicherry has submitted a memorandum seeking Central assistance. A Central Team visited the affected areas during November 30 to December 2, 1991 to assess the damage and assistance required. Pending recommendation of Central Team an assistance of Rs. 1.6 crore has been released to the Union Territory of Pondicherry for providing immediate relief measures.

1495. [*Transferred to the 12th December*, 1991]

Agriculture based processing industries

1496. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to promote export oriented and agriculture based processing industries on co-operative basis in rural ares for the benefit of farmers; and

(b) if so what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries has Scheme to provide assistance to State level Government undertakings and cooperative for establishing or enlarging Food, Fruit and Vegetable processing industries to facilitate the farmers of horticultural crops in receiving a remunerative price for their produce. Under this Scheme, Central assistance for any project will be 50 per cent of the non-recurring cost (60 per cent in industrially backard districts and Integrated Tribal Development Project districts (ITDP) and 75 per cent in North-Eastern and Hill States). This assistance is made available to State Government undertakings or State level cooperative organisations.

National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) under the Administrative control of Ministry of Agriculture is engaged, among other activities, in planning and promotion of agro-based and export oriented industries in cooperative sector in rural areas for the benefit of farmers. Under the NCDC Schemes assistance rainging between 50 per cent to 95 per cent (50-65 per cent in normal states 75 per cent in under developed States and 95 per cent in least-developed states) is provided.

Modification of crop insurance scheme

1497. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to modify the guidelines in respect of Crop Insurance Scheme; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHNDRAN): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to modify the

guidelines in respect of Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) at present. However, the Government had on the basis of the suggestions made by the National Workshop on Crop Insurance held in 1990 issued certain guidelines to various States/U.Ts. in November, 1990 on functioning of State Crop Insurance Funds, seasonality discipline, prevention of delay in settlement of indemnity claims strengthening of crop cutting machinery, deficiencies of crop credit system and role of credit institutions.

Production of oil seeds and pulses

1498. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given any incentives to the small and marginal farmers during 1991-92 for increasing the production of oil seeds and pulses; if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to meet growing demand for pulses and oil seeds with details of present production of such crops in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) For increasing the production of oilseeds and pulses, two Centrally Sponsored Schemes *viz.* Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) and National Pulses Development Programme (NPDP) are being implemented in different States during 1991-92. Under these programmes preference is given to small and marginal farmers and other Weaker sections of the farming community (SC) & (ST) farmers by providing various agricultural inputs at concessional rates.

(b) The production of pulses is estimated at 14.06 million tonnes and that of oilseeds at 19.10 million tonnes during 1990-91. To increase the production of oilseeds and pulses in a given time frame, a mission approach has been adopted to the Tecnology Mission on Cilseeds & Pulses. Programmes have been taken up to tackle the problem from all angles i. e. development of production and processing technology, input support services to the farmers and marketing support. Input support is provided to the farmehs through the implementation of Oilseers Production Programme (OPP) and National Pulses Development Programme (NPDP) which provides financial support for production and distribution of seeds, rhyzobium culture, plant protection chemicals and equipment, improved farm implements, sprinkler sets and gypsum & pyrites distribution. Demonstrations of improved seeds and packages of proctices have also been taken up under these schemes.

Availability of foodgrains

1499. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the per capita availability of foodgrains in the country;

(b) whether it is likely to meet the requirements of the country during the current financial year; and

(c) if not, the manner in which Government propose to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The provisional estimate of net per capita availability of foodgrains in the country for 1991 is 187.07 kgs.

(b) and (c) The stock of foodgrains with the public agencies as